



Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Exam board: WJEC)
Levels available: GCSE Foundation and Higher Tier (one year course)

Subject Leader: Miss S Eales

Course Information:

* **What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?**

The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are of vital importance in today's world. Not only are they essential in many careers, they also underpin successful study at all levels. A proficiency in them can also add immeasurably to an individual's general quality of life. There is no minimum GCSE grade requirement to start this course: all that is required is a willingness to read widely and to work hard! You may study for this qualification alongside AS, BTEC or GCSE courses.

* **What does the course consist of and how will I be assessed?**

The GCSE Specification

You will be following an integrated programme of speaking and listening, reading and writing. You will be required to consider the point of view of others, in both written and spoken forms. You will read texts from different periods, and from a range of cultures. You will develop your critical and analytical skills through your study of literary, non-literary and media texts.

Speaking and Listening Coursework 20%

You will be assessed in the following three contexts:

- o group discussion and interaction
This may include work in a paired situation. The talk here will probably be of a more informal nature.
- o extended individual contribution
This could be a talk given to a group or a sustained contribution to a group activity, for example, a formal debate or a discussion. It is likely that the talk here will be of a more formal nature.
- o a drama focused activity
This could include improvisations, role plays, hot seating or other work 'in role'.

Written Coursework 20%

You will be required to submit the following four pieces of work:

- o an assignment on a play by Shakespeare
- o an assignment on a selection of poetry from other cultures and traditions.
- o writing to explore, imagine or entertain
This could include a piece of personal writing, a short story or a drama script.
- o writing to argue, persuade or advise
This could include a newspaper or a magazine article or a leaflet.

Examination 60%

Paper One (two hours)

Section A

Structured questions will test your reading of a prose passage by a major writer with a well established critical reputation.

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Course Information:

Section B

Your imaginative writing will be assessed through two tasks. The first will ask for a piece of writing to *inform, explain or describe*. The second will offer opportunities for a variety of approaches in writing to *explore, imagine or entertain*.

Paper Two (two hours)

Section A

Structured questions will test your reading of non-fiction and media texts.

Section B

You will be asked to answer two questions: the first will ask for a piece of writing intended to *argue, persuade or advise*. The second will offer opportunities to *analyse, review or comment*.

*** How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of English Language, the GCSE course will enable you to develop Key Skills. Your teacher will let you know when a particular piece of work also counts for Key Skills assessment, as well as for English Language assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain a Key Skills qualification. During this course, examples of Key Skills could include:

Communication, eg contributing to discussions or to a presentation

Information and communication Technology, eg using different sources

Improving own learning and performance, eg agreeing and planning targets

Working with others, eg planning activities, working towards agreed objectives.

*** What could I go on to do after the course?**

GCSE English Language is a valuable qualification. It indicates to prospective employers that you are well read and that you are able to communicate effectively in both discussion and written work. In addition, you may have enjoyed the course so much that you want to study it at A Level.